Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition comprising an active pharmaceutical ingredient capable of existing in multiple polymorphic forms, comprising a step of preparation of a wet phase comprising said active pharmaceutical ingredient and microcrystalline cellulose and a liquid, wherein in said wet phase has a [[the]] weight ratio of active pharmaceutical ingredient to microcrystalline cellulose [[is]] above 1.0 ~~and/~~or [[the]] a weight ratio of active pharmaceutical ingredient to liquid [[is]] above 1.0.

2. A process according to claim 1 wherein said wet phase is an alcoholic phase and in said wet phase the weight ratio of active pharmaceutical ingredient to microcrystalline cellulose is above 1.0 and the weight ratio of active pharmaceutical ingredient to alcoholic liquid is above 1.0.

3. (currently amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein said weight ratio of active pharmaceutical ingredient to the liquid is above 2.0.

4. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein said liquid is an alcoholic liquid consisting of only absolute ethanol or of an aqueous ethanol solution.

5. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein said microcrystalline cellulose is incorporated into the composition in more than one step.

6. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the active pharmaceutical ingredient is pravastatin sodium.

7. A process according to claim 6 wherein the liquid is ethanol and the weight ratio of pravastatin sodium to microcrystalline cellulose is above 1.0 and the weight ratio of pravastatin sodium to ethanol is above 2.0.

8. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the active pharmaceutical ingredient is crystalline pravastatin sodium having characteristic peaks in a X-ray diffractogram at 2θ of 4, [[10,2]]10.2, [[16,3]]16.3, [[17,3]]17.3, and [[20,0]]20.0 ± [[0,2]]0.2°.

9. A process according to claim 8 wherein the crystalline pravastatin sodium exhibits an X-ray diffraction pattern substantially similar to that in Figure 2 of US 6,740,775.

10. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 6 to 9~~claim 6 whereby pravastatin sodium in a first polymorph form is stabilized against conversion into a polymorph form which exhibits broad peaks in X-ray diffraction pattern, having half-value widths of significant peaks above 2° 2 Theta.

11. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein a binder is incorporated into the composition in a step other than the step of preparation of an alcoholic phase.

12. A process according to claim 11 wherein said binder is polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP).

13. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition obtainable by the process of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1.

14. A stabilized pharmaceutical composition comprising the polymorph form of pravastatin sodium which exhibits X-Ray diffraction pattern with significant peaks having half-value widths below 2° 2 Theta characterized in that the polymorph form of pravastatin sodium is stabilized against converting into one exhibiting peaks in X-ray diffraction pattern, having half-value widths of significant peaks above 2° 2 Theta.

15. (currently amended) ~~Use of a~~ A method of using the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~ for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia.

16. (currently amended) A method of preventing or treating hypercholesterolemia in a susceptible patient, comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 13 ~~or 14~~.